



Westward Barriers

Monthly Newsletter of the Travelers' Rest Chapter

of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

PO Box 447 – Lolo, MT 59847

www.travelersrestchapter.org

Keepers of the Travelers' Rest Story – Stewards of the Lolo Trail

Meeting Date:

Thursday, March 6th at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location:

Lolo Community Center – Lolo Montana

Presentation:

Montana Before History:

The Five Best Archaeological Sites in Montana

Speaker:

Doug MacDonald – UM Anthropology Professor

Doug MacDonald is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Montana. MacDonald studies the prehistory of the Native American peoples of Montana and Wyoming. For the last seven years, he has led archaeological projects across the region, focused mainly in Yellowstone National Park. He has published numerous articles and three books, including two on Yellowstone and one on Montana prehistory. That book, **Montana Before History: 1,000 YEARS OF HUNTER-GATHERERS IN THE ROCKIES AND PLAINS**, was published in 2012 by Missoula's Mountain Press Publishing Company.

Amazon Book Review: "Despite the highly specialized subject of his book, MacDonald avoids the use of jargon and understands how to make the complexities of archaeological terminology comprehensible even to readers like me. He explains... for example, that the three earliest sites in America indicating human habitation (dubbed "Clovis" sites by archaeologists after the original site of that type in Clovis, New Mexico), are located in "Florida, Montana, and South Dakota" all dating to about 11,300 to 11,100 years ago."

"I always thought of Montana in much more recent terms. We were among the most recent states admitted to the Union and little was known about the area in which the rivers run north until Lewis and Clark came through and had some of their horses stolen by Crow Indians. Now, thanks to Professor MacDonald, I realize that a lot happened in Montana before its inclusion into the Louisiana Purchase."

ARCHAEOLOGY AND LEWIS & CLARK

by Ritchie Doyle, Travelers' Rest Chapter Board Member, Brigade Re-enactor, Newsletter Assistant & Member Since 1999

We can dig into archaeology and Lewis & Clark in many areas. For the Travelers Rest Chapter (of the LCTHF), the story of archaeologist Dan Hall and his team's success in verifying the Corp of Discovery's encampment along Lolo (Travelers Rest) Creek in 2002 is a treasured archaeological story. Other attempts to locate and verify the L&C Expedition camp sites through archaeology have been less successful, regarding such efforts at the Great Falls (of the Missouri River) and at Fort Mandan and Fort Clatsop.

Other stories of archaeology in the footsteps of Lewis & Clark revolve around the first peoples in North America. In January of 1804, Lewis & Clark noted in their journals prehistoric Native American sites that have since received extensive archaeological examination. Perhaps the most significant is the famous Cahokia Mounds (the ancient city name and fate is unknown, but the site was eventually named for a subtribe of the Illiniwek (Illinois) tribe in the mid-1800's. Thousands of obviously advanced cultural artifacts have been recovered and are now displayed at a museum in Collinsville, Illinois. Over 120 mounds have been identified, but many were leveled by farmers who were often working long-hours to create a flat surface for easy tilling.

Cahokia is located in a very fertile flood-plain (which was great for growing corn and other crops) called the "American Bottom" which is on the east side of the Mississippi River and across from St. Louis (nicknamed Mound City at one time). Cahokia was an ancient metropolis with as many as 10,000 - 20,000 people at its peak 800 years ago. There were more people at Cahokia in AD 1250 than in London! Considered the largest prehistoric city north of Mexico, it was occupied for seven centuries by American Indians who farmed, traded, created art, studied the sun and built massive earthen mounds and high-priest ceremony platforms. When the Expedition was wintering (1803-04) nearby at Camp Du Bois, Captain Clark and Private Collins visited the northwest edge of the Cahokia Mounds. On January 9th, 1804, Clark wrote:

"I took Collins & went...across a Prary...where I discovered an Indian Fortification...this fortress is 9 mouns forming a Circle two of them is about 7 foot above the leavel of the plain...about this place I found great quantities of Earthen ware & flints..."

Captain Clark the archaeologist...kinda.

Gary Moulton, an editor of the L&C Journals, regarding the Collins & Clark venture, notes: "The mounds apparently served as foundations for ceremonial structures and were built between 900 and 1300 A.D. All except one of this northern group of mounds have been obliterated, but those further south are now within the Cahokia Mounds State Park."

A visit today to Cahokia Mounds can be mysterious, haunting and enchanting, especially after climbing up the ancient steps of the largest 100 foot high mound (Monks Mound – Mound 38) at sunset, as I have.

For the armchair explorer Thomas Jefferson, reading about such adventures into the prehistory of the continent may have made him jealous. His curiosity was boundless - and he was interested in all things Indian – as his associate Meriwether Lewis would learn. Among the many orders he saddled Lewis & Clark with, Jefferson instructed that learning all they could about the Indian nations they would meet came second only to finding the route to the Pacific.

So it is – in the spirit of Thomas Jefferson – that we, our Travelers Rest Chapter, continue to learn about the first peoples of our continent. And as such, we'll have the pleasure to listen to our Chapter's next speaker, Douglas MacDonald, PhD, a University of Montana professor who specializes in prehistoric archaeology, with a talk titled: "Montana Before History – The Five Best Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Montana".

Exciting News Flash - Just this February, the DNA of a baby boy who was buried in Montana 12,600 years ago has been recovered, and it provides new indications of the ancient roots of today's American Indians and other native peoples of the Americas. I hope to see you at the Chapter Meeting. No shovels required



Travelers' Rest
Preservation & Heritage Association

Winter Storytelling Continues in March at Travelers' Rest State Park

Please join us for the 2014 Winter Storytelling Series at Travelers' Rest State Park. Programs begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday mornings at the Holt Museum and Visitor Center. For more information, contact us at 273-4253 or info@travelersrest.org.

March 1 - *Stories from the Blackfeet, A Blackfeet Tribal Member*

March 8 - *Jeannette Rankin Suffragetter, Suzette Dussault – Humanities Montana*

March 15 - *Mrs. Woody's Trunk Full of Memories, Jenny Pak – Humanities Montana*

March 15 - Travelers' Rest State Park Volunteer Open House from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
This is a great opportunity to learn more about volunteering at the Park!

March 22 - *Taking Action: A Political History of Women in Montana, Diane Sands – Humanities MT*

Annual Auction for Travelers' Rest Interpretive Association – A Success!

An amazing number of 'very intrigued people' (Over 120 VIP's) showed their support for the Mission and Goals of TRPHA (Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association) at the Annual Auction and Programming Fundraiser at the Hilton Garden Inn on Friday, February 21st - to eat, drink, be merry & BID on over 210 Silent Auction Items and a dozen Live Auction Items including:

- Two Nights at the Fly Fisherman Lodge
- Free Tickets to a Griz Football Game including 'special' Tailgate Activities
- A Blood-Curling White Water Rafting Trip on the Lochsa River

Mayor Engen was both the Auctioneer and the Evenings Entertainment, being especially funny as he did his best to Auction off a household TOILET, while making as many comedic references to certain bathroom functions and how they were related to the famed Lolo, MT discovery of the (now) very unique and famous Lewis & Clark Expedition's LATRINE and REMAINS that were 'left for historic posterity' and eventually found on the current Travelers' Rest State Park property in 2002. For many, this really gave new meaning to the phrase... CORPS OF DISCOVERY! ☺

The Travelers' Rest Chapter is one of dozens of Chapters around the country that is under the organizational umbrella of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation [LCTHF], headquartered in Great Falls, MT. The LCTHF offers a membership with extra services, a quarterly publication [We Proceeded On], a quarterly Email Newsletter [The Orderly Report] and many other opportunities to be more involved in the history of the Expedition and the preservation of the Lewis & Clark Historic Trail. WWW.LEWISANDCLARK.ORG

Travelers' Rest Chapter
 c/o Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
 PO Box 3434
 Great Falls, MT 59405
 www.lewisandclark.org

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Speaker: Doug MacDonald

UM Anthropology Professor

 Talk & PowerPoint on...

Montana Before History

The Five Best Prehistoric
 Archaeological Sites in Montana

Thursday, March 7th – 7pm

Lolo Community Center

→ Westward Barriers ←

Travelers' Rest Chapter – Membership Information

☺ ☺ ☺ Please check your mailing label to determine if it is time for you to RENEW your Membership

New Member Renewal Address Change **2014.03**

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Scout (Student) \$5 Private (Individual) \$10 Platoon (Family) \$15

Interpreter \$25 Corporal \$50 Sergeant \$75

Captain \$100 General \$500 Jefferson (Lifetime) \$1,000

Send Payments To: Travelers' Rest Chapter · PO Box 447 · Lolo, MT · 59847

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Travelers' Rest Chapter Board: Scott Sproull [President]; Jack Puckett [Secretary]; Jean Belangie-Nye [Treasurer]; Scott Cameron [Brigade Coordinator], Ritchie Doyle [Meeting Organizer]; Norm Jacobson; Earl Reinsel; Tom Schenarts [TRPHA Liaison]; Chuck Sundstrom. Newsletter Coordinator – Scott Sproull